

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

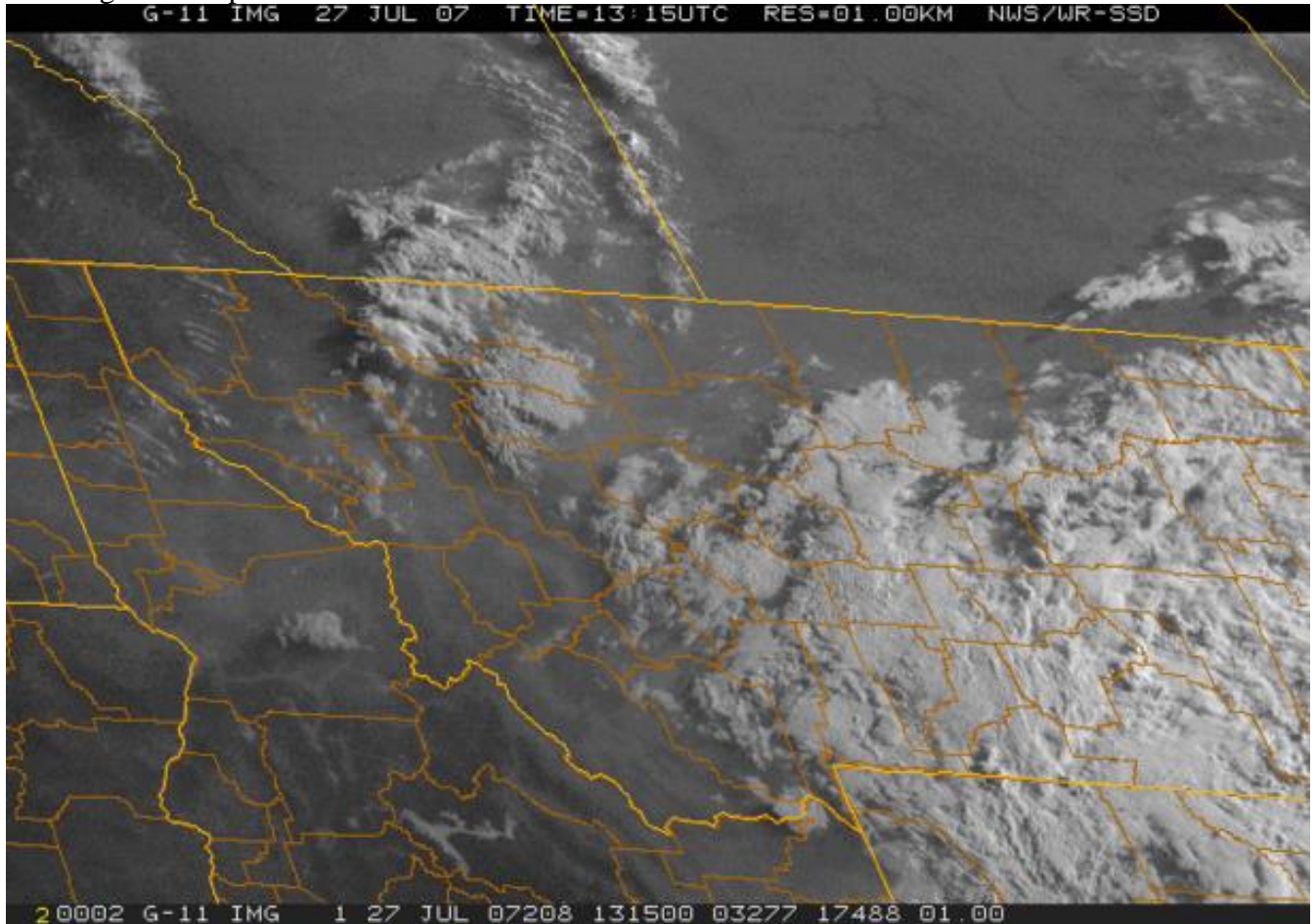
July 27 2007

10:00 AM Friday

Current Situation

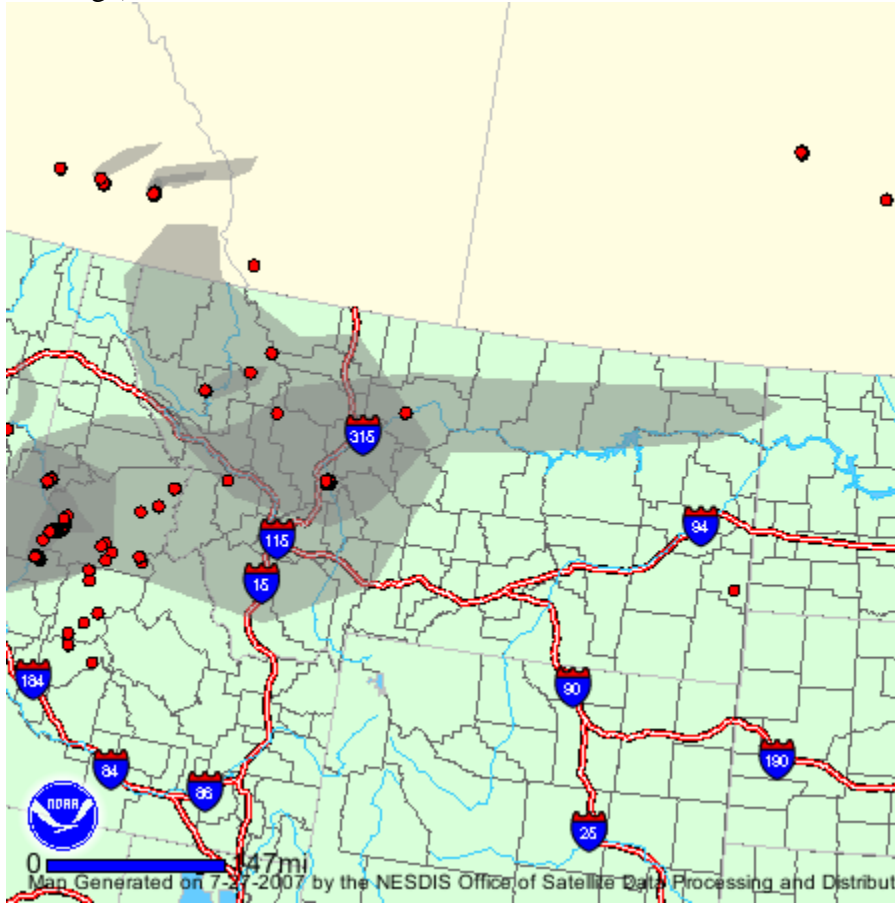
Smoke aloft is clearly visible over western Montana on this morning's satellite photo. [MODERATE](#) smoke conditions due to persistent haze levels are currently impacting areas around Whitefish, Kalispell, Polson, Ronan, Missoula, Hamilton, Helena, and Butte. Current hourly readings are not too high but 24 hour average values are indicating there is a concern for very sensitive individuals. Smoke levels are expected to rise later this morning into the afternoon as the smoke aloft mixes down. See the forecast below for details. Direct smoke impacts from local fires will also be of concern. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke

is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:
http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM July 27, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
<u>VERY UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	Whitefish T24 Kalispell T24 Polson T24 Ronan T24 Missoula T24 Hamilton T24 Helena T24 Butte T24

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
 T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
 Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
 Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
 (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

The smoke aloft will mix down and produce some large scale, intermittent impacts at the surface later today. Overall transport is from the west right now but southwest winds will be on tap for tomorrow. This will help clear the residual smoke from the Meriwether fire out of the Helena Valley but it will also bring a lot of smoke from the fires in Idaho and Oregon into the state. Local smoke impacts will continue to be of concern for the areas in the state near active fires. Fire Activity levels may ramp up today and tomorrow producing UNHEALTHY smoke impacts in areas near large fires. Residents in those areas need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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Meteorologist

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